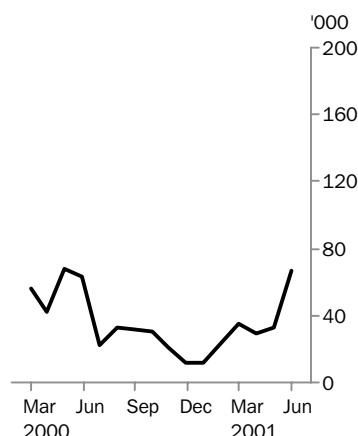


# INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 14 SEPT 2001

## Working days lost



## JUNE KEY FIGURES

	May 2001	Jun 2001	12 months ended Jun 2001
Number of disputes	r 62	67	691
Number of employees ('000)	r 28.6	67.1	231.3
Working days lost ('000)	r 32.3	66.9	348.9
Working days lost per thousand employees	..	..	45

## JUNE KEY POINTS

### MONTHLY ESTIMATES

- There were 66,900 working days lost due to industrial disputation in June 2001, an increase of 34,600 from May 2001 (32,300).
- The number of employees involved in industrial disputes increased from 28,600 in May to 67,100 in June 2001. The number of disputes increased from 62 to 67.
- In June 2001, the Other manufacturing group of industries accounted for the largest proportion of working days lost (34%), followed by the Construction industry (29%).
- New South Wales accounted for the largest proportion, 68% (45,700), of all working days lost during June 2001.

### ANNUAL ESTIMATES

- During the 12 months ended June 2001, there were 691 disputes, 10% less than in the 12 months ended June 2000 (769), and the number of employees involved decreased by 60% to 231,300.
- There were 348,900 working days lost during the 12 months ended June 2001, a 56% decrease compared with the 12 months ended June 2000 (794,100).
- In the 12 months ended June 2001, the Construction industry accounted for the largest proportion of all working days lost (29%). All industry groups recorded a decrease in the number of working days lost compared with the 12 months ended June 2000, with the largest decrease occurring in the Education; Health and community services group of industries (down 268,200 to 16,500).
- All States and Territories, except the Northern Territory, recorded a decrease in the number of working days lost compared with the previous 12 month period. New South Wales recorded the largest decrease (down 235,500 to 144,400).
- There were 45 working days lost per thousand employees in the 12 months ended June 2001.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact Jim Birch on Melbourne 03 9615 7817, or the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE	RELEASE DATE
July 2001	16 October 2001
August 2001	15 November 2001
September 2001	13 December 2001
October 2001	14 January 2002
November 2001	13 February 2002
December 2001	12 March 2002

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### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

Revisions have been made to some figures for April and May 2001 as the result of disputes which were identified after the release of the previous publication.

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### SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

. . not available  
n.p. not available for publication but included in totals where applicable, unless otherwise indicated  
r revised

R.W. Edwards  
Acting Australian Statistician

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE PERIOD, Australia

NUMBER OF DISPUTES.... EMPLOYEES INVOLVED..

Period	Commenced in period	Total	Newly involved	Total	Working days lost
	no.	no.	'000	'000	'000
<b>1998</b>	516	519	347.8	348.4	526.3
<b>1999</b>	727	731	460.7	461.1	650.5
<b>2000</b>	686	698	324.4	325.4	469.1
<b>2000</b>					
April	42	64	42.5	47.7	42.2
May	67	87	24.7	61.1	67.9
June	60	81	56.8	59.0	63.2
July	58	74	16.1	20.3	22.0
August	62	86	16.0	18.9	33.2
September	56	82	27.7	31.6	31.1
October	46	63	15.5	18.4	30.1
November	71	83	12.4	13.8	21.4
December	35	46	8.1	9.2	12.0
<b>2001</b>					
January	50	59	5.9	7.8	11.2
February	65	76	10.5	14.3	23.5
March	78	95	19.2	22.2	35.5
April	r 49	r 63	r 22.6	r 25.4	r 29.8
May	r 49	r 62	r 22.8	r 28.6	r 32.3
June	55	67	50.2	67.1	66.9
Twelve months ended					
June 1999	652	659	275.1	277.2	412.0
June 2000	754	769	576.5	578.3	794.1
June 2001	674	691	227.1	231.3	348.9

## WORKING DAYS LOST, By Industry—Australia

Period	MINING.....		MANUFACTURING.....						
	Coal	Other	Metal product; Machinery and equipment	Other	Const- ruction	Transport and storage; Commun- ication services	Education; Health and community services	Other industries	All industries
	'000	'000							
<b>1998</b>	60.4	1.4	27.5	67.7	210.9	52.8	75.8	29.8	526.3
<b>1999</b>	26.0	2.0	104.3	80.3	165.1	20.3	224.1	28.4	650.5
<b>2000</b>	37.3	3.8	68.2	78.0	108.8	26.2	110.1	36.6	469.1
<b>2000</b>									
April	1.3	0.0	8.4	6.4	7.0	1.3	12.2	5.6	42.2
May	5.1	0.0	5.9	2.5	10.7	0.9	40.5	2.3	67.9
June	9.9	0.0	2.9	10.5	2.9	1.1	24.6	11.2	63.2
July	1.8	0.0	6.1	1.7	6.7	0.5	2.2	3.1	22.0
August	4.4	0.0	6.5	10.3	8.2	0.5	1.0	2.2	33.2
September	1.9	0.0	7.9	6.2	5.3	0.9	6.3	2.5	31.1
October	1.8	0.0	3.6	9.5	13.6	1.3	0.1	0.2	30.1
November	2.9	0.9	5.4	6.3	3.0	1.5	0.3	1.1	21.4
December	1.2	0.1	1.2	5.1	1.4	0.8	0.2	2.1	12.0
<b>2001</b>									
January	1.6	0.0	3.0	2.4	3.4	0.5	0.0	0.3	11.2
February	0.7	0.1	13.3	2.1	5.7	0.6	0.1	1.0	23.5
March	9.9	0.2	7.5	3.8	10.9	0.7	0.0	2.5	35.5
April	5.0	0.0	r 3.4	1.1	14.9	2.0	0.3	3.1	r 29.8
May	0.7	0.3	r 10.6	r 8.6	7.7	1.2	0.0	3.3	r 32.3
June	0.1	0.0	16.2	22.7	19.3	0.3	6.0	2.2	66.9
Twelve months ended									
June 1999	40.5	2.2	38.5	70.5	111.2	46.2	67.0	35.8	412.0
June 2000	38.9	4.0	120.0	88.9	178.2	36.8	284.7	42.6	794.1
June 2001	32.2	1.6	84.5	79.7	100.0	10.7	16.5	23.8	348.9

## WORKING DAYS LOST

	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
Period	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000
<b>1998</b>	188.5	200.0	51.6	16.1	61.2	3.1	0.7	5.1	526.3
<b>1999</b>	316.5	218.2	52.3	15.0	43.4	0.3	0.3	4.3	650.5
<b>2000</b>	166.8	139.8	89.9	15.7	53.6	1.2	0.7	1.4	469.1
<b>2000</b>									
April	20.0	9.9	2.1	2.7	7.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	42.2
May	47.1	11.0	4.3	1.0	4.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	67.9
June	16.5	10.9	30.2	0.7	4.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	63.2
July	7.5	7.1	5.1	0.1	2.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	22.0
August	8.8	13.8	8.0	0.1	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	33.2
September	8.3	11.4	4.1	1.3	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	31.1
October	5.3	16.8	6.7	0.1	1.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	30.1
November	9.2	7.1	3.3	0.2	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.4
December	4.4	4.2	1.4	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.4	12.0
<b>2001</b>									
January	5.8	3.6	0.7	0.2	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	11.2
February	8.6	10.8	2.0	0.4	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	23.5
March	8.2	13.3	12.1	0.4	1.3	0.0	0.0	0.2	35.5
April	r 17.7	3.7	5.7	0.2	2.4	0.1	0.0	0.0	r 29.8
May	r 14.8	r 13.5	2.9	0.5	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	r 32.3
June	45.7	10.8	8.1	0.2	1.9	0.1	0.0	0.1	66.9
Twelve months ended									
June 1999	146.9	131.5	53.8	17.9	57.5	2.4	0.7	1.4	412.0
June 2000	379.9	232.7	84.9	23.0	67.2	1.0	0.4	4.8	794.1
June 2001	144.4	116.2	60.0	4.3	22.2	0.4	0.6	0.8	348.9

## WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES, By Industry: Australia—12 months ended

Twelve months ended	MINING.....		MANUFACTURING.....		Const- ruction	Transport and storage; Communi- cation services	Education; Health and community services	Other industries	All industries
	Coal	Other	Metal product; Machinery and equipment	Other					
<b>2000</b>									
April	1 364	67	323	132	382	76	161	7	93
May	1 581	65	329	125	399	76	191	8	100
June	2 024	64	310	131	389	75	208	10	104
July	2 032	61	295	129	350	74	207	10	100
August	1 831	53	242	102	316	64	186	9	88
September	1 873	54	186	104	305	59	181	9	83
October	1 922	52	186	115	290	55	170	9	81
November	1 971	66	184	119	236	53	96	9	64
December	1 933	60	170	121	234	52	79	9	61
<b>2001</b>									
January	1 946	21	165	115	232	49	79	8	59
February	1 821	19	182	110	206	23	68	8	53
March	2 338	20	177	103	173	21	63	8	51
April	2 553	22	165	94	194	22	53	7	49
May	2 313	27	177	104	187	22	25	8	44
June	1 772	27	210	122	224	21	12	6	45
June 1997	7 245	32	203	86	405	42	91	14	90
June 1998	3 426	1	147	118	594	105	53	8	82
June 1999	2 200	37	103	104	269	97	50	9	56

## WORKING DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND EMPLOYEES—12 months ended

Twelve months ended	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	South Australia	Western Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Australia
<b>2000</b>									
April	126	122	39	43	86	5	4	29	93
May	143	124	41	43	88	6	4	31	100
June	148	121	61	41	87	6	5	33	104
July	141	114	64	41	85	6	5	31	100
August	132	86	61	28	77	6	4	8	88
September	122	79	62	31	81	6	4	8	83
October	116	83	62	30	70	6	5	7	81
November	73	73	63	28	70	6	5	7	64
December	64	71	64	28	68	7	9	9	61
<b>2001</b>									
January	63	69	62	27	60	6	9	9	59
February	59	64	51	24	58	6	9	8	53
March	57	60	57	14	42	5	9	9	51
April	56	57	59	9	36	4	8	9	49
May	44	58	58	8	31	3	8	8	44
June	55	58	42	8	28	3	7	5	45
June 1997	70	107	133	30	94	79	13	95	90
June 1998	86	160	38	12	40	31	4	31	82
June 1999	60	70	40	33	77	14	8	10	56

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES ENDING DURING THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 2001, Australia

<i>Number of disputes</i>	<i>Employees involved</i>	<i>Working days lost</i>
<i>no.</i>	<i>'000</i>	<i>'000</i>

## CAUSE OF DISPUTE

Wages	47	7.6	15.8
Leave, pensions, compensation	36	16.9	20.3
Managerial policy	397	94.6	185.9
Physical working conditions	126	14.4	24.7
Trade unionism	51	5.0	4.8
Hours of work	7	1.1	2.7
Other	22	102.0	105.2
Total	686	241.5	359.4

## DURATION OF DISPUTE

Up to and including 1 day	367	105.2	72.1
Over 1 and up to and including 2 days	157	113.4	136.1
Over 2 and less than 5 days	94	13.5	43.6
5 and less than 10 days	45	6.4	40.2
10 and less than 20 days	14	1.8	26.1
20 days and over	9	1.3	41.3
Total	686	241.5	359.4

## METHOD OF SETTLEMENT

Negotiation	151	42.0	74.3
State legislation	93	10.0	24.8
Federal and joint Federal-State legislation	99	12.2	43.3
Resumption without negotiation	335	176.2	214.4
Other methods	8	1.1	2.6
Total	686	241.5	359.4



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication relate to disputes which involved stoppages of work of ten working days or more at the establishments where the stoppages occurred. Ten working days is equivalent to the amount of ordinary time worked by ten people in one day. For example, 3,000 workers on strike for 2 hours would be counted as 750 working days lost (assuming they usually work an 8 hour day).

**2** The statistics of working days lost relate to the losses due to industrial disputes only (see the definition of 'Disputes' in the Glossary). Effects of disputes on other establishments, such as stand-downs because of lack of materials, disruption of transport services, power cuts, are not included.

### SOURCE OF DATA

**3** These statistics on industrial disputes are based on all disputes identified which occurred during the period. Disputes are identified through a range of sources, including newspaper reports, listings obtained from industrial relations commissions, and contact with government, businesses, employer organisations and trade unions. Although every attempt is made to identify all disputes that occurred in a period, some small strikes may not have been identified through the sources available.

**4** Once a dispute is identified, additional information is obtained, usually from employers, on the nature and extent of the dispute. Particulars of some stoppages, e.g. working days lost in a particular strike, may have been imputed. Due to the limitations of identifying disputes and imputation procedures, the statistics in this publication should not be regarded as an exact measure of the extent of industrial dispute.

### TYPE OF DISPUTE

**5** The following types of industrial disputes are included:

- unauthorised stopwork meetings;
- unofficial strikes;
- sympathetic strikes (e.g. strikes in support of a group of workers already on strike);
- political or protest strikes;
- general strikes;
- work stoppages initiated by employers (e.g. lockouts); and
- rotating or revolving strikes (i.e. strikes which occur when workers at different locations take turns to stop work).

Excluded from these statistics are work-to-rules, go-slows, bans (e.g. overtime bans) and sit-ins. In addition, industrial disputes in which all employees resign are deemed to have been resolved. Statistics on those disputes will cease to be collected from the date of the employees' resignations.

### CHANGE IN METHODOLOGY

**6** The basis for the calculation of working days lost per thousand employees was changed in the January 1995 edition of this publication to use estimates of employees taken from the ABS Labour Force Survey only. Estimates have been recalculated on this basis for each 12 month period back to December 1990 and are available on request. For the January 1987 to December 1994 editions of this publication, estimates of employees were taken predominantly from the ABS Survey of Employment and Earnings.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

CHANGE IN METHODOLOGY <i>continued</i>	<p><b>7</b> The basis for the calculation of the number of disputes was changed in the November 1992 publication and the series revised back to September 1991. Before September 1991, disputes affecting more than one industry and/or State were counted as a separate dispute in each industry and State and in the Australian total. From September 1991 onwards, a dispute affecting more than one industry and/or State is counted once in each industry and/or State, but only once at the broader industry and Australia level. The reason for the change was to align the method of counting the number of industrial disputes with the International Labour Organisation guidelines. This change does not affect the estimates of employees involved or working days lost.</p>
INDUSTRY CLASSIFICATION	<p><b>8</b> Industry information on a monthly basis from January 1994 and on an annual basis from December 1994 is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)—for more details refer to <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 1993</i> (Cat. no. 1292.0). It replaces the Australian Standard Industrial Classification (ASIC) which had been in use for many years. Data for periods prior to January 1994 for monthly data and December 1994 for annual data have been classified only according to ASIC.</p>
RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES	<p><b>9</b> Inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in information provided by respondents or in processing by the ABS. Although considerable care is taken in questionnaire design, in the instructions given to respondents, and in editing the returns, these inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, regardless of the collection method.</p>
RELATED PUBLICATIONS	<p><b>10</b> Users may also wish to refer to the following publications which are available from ABS Bookshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Employees Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership</i> (Cat. no. 6310.0)—issued annually</li> <li>▪ <i>Employment Arrangements and Superannuation, 2000</i> (cat. no 6361.0)</li> <li>▪ <i>Industrial Disputes, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 6322.0)(discontinued)</li> <li>▪ <i>Labour Force, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 6203.0)—issued monthly</li> <li>▪ <i>Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods</i> (Cat. no. 6101.0)</li> </ul> <p><b>11</b> Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the <i>Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia</i> (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a <i>Release Advice</i> (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Release Advice are available from any ABS office or from the ABS website <a href="http://www.abs.gov.au">www.abs.gov.au</a>.</p>
ABS DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST	<p><b>12</b> As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, the ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.</p>
ROUNDING	<p><b>13</b> Where estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.</p>

## G L O S S A R Y

**Cause of dispute** The statistics for cause of industrial disputes relate to the reported main cause of stoppage of work and not necessarily all causes that may have been responsible for the stoppage of work. For these reasons, the statistics do not reflect the relative importance of all causes of disputes as perceived by both employers and employees. The causes are classified from information supplied by employers and according to standards determined by the International Labour Organisation. The classification of causes is as follows:

*Wages.* Claims involving general principles relating to wages e.g. increase (decrease) in wages; variation in method of payment, or combined claims relating to wages, hours or conditions of work in which the claim about wages is deemed to be the most important. Combined claims in which the other claims are deemed to be the most important are included under the relevant clause. Disputes over award restructuring are included under managerial policy.

*Leave, pensions, compensation.* Claims involving general principles relating to holidays and leave provisions; pension and retirement provisions; workers' compensation provisions; insertion of penal clause provisions in awards.

*Managerial policy.* Disputes concerning the exercise of managerial control by employers, e.g. terms and conditions of employment (other than disputes specifically about wages and hours); new awards and agreements; award restructuring; enterprise bargaining (including disputes over wages, leave, hours of work etc. where they are part of enterprise bargaining); work practices; principles of promotion or deployment of staff, including roster complaints and retrenchments; disciplinary matters including alleged victimisation of union officials; employment of particular persons; disagreement with managerial decisions.

*Physical working conditions.* Disputes concerning physical working conditions and safety issues, e.g. protective clothing and equipment; first aid services; uncomfortable working conditions; lack of, or the poor condition of, amenities; claims for assistance; shortage or poor distribution of equipment or material; condition of equipment; new production methods and equipment; arduous physical tasks.

*Trade unionism.* Disputes concerning employment of non-unionists, inter-union and intra-union disputes; sympathy stoppages in support of employees in another industry; recognition of union activities.

*Hours of work.* Claims involving general principles relating to hours of work, e.g. decrease (increase) in hours, distribution of hours.

*Other.* Disputes concerning protests directed against persons or situations other than those relating to the employer/employee relationship, e.g. political matters; fining and gaoling of persons; lack of work; lack of adequate transport; non-award public holidays; accidents and attendance at funerals. Stoppages for which no reason is given are also included in this category.

## G L O S S A R Y

<b>Disputes</b>	<p>For these statistics, an <i>industrial dispute</i> is defined as a withdrawal from work by a group of employees, or a refusal by an employer or a number of employers to permit some or all of their employees to work, each withdrawal or refusal being made in order to enforce a demand, to resist a demand, or to express a grievance.</p> <p>A dispute affecting several establishments is counted as a single dispute if it is organised or directed by one person or organisation; otherwise it is counted as a separate dispute at each establishment (in each State or Territory) and in each industry in which it occurred.</p> <p>A dispute affecting more than one industry and/or State is counted once in each industry and/or State but only once at the broader industry and Australia level. Before September 1991 disputes covering more than one industry and/or State were counted differently (refer to paragraph 7 of the Explanatory Notes for details).</p> <p>When there is a return to work between stoppages over the same issue, and the return to work is for less than two complete months, the stoppages are counted as a single dispute. When the return to work is for two or more months, the dispute is considered to have ended at the time of the return to work. Should a subsequent stoppage occur, it is counted as a new dispute.</p>
<b>Disputes which occurred during the period</b>	<p><i>Disputes which occurred during the period</i> encompasses those disputes which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ started in a previous month or year and ended in the reference period; or</li> <li>▪ began and ended in the reference period; or</li> <li>▪ began in the reference period and continued into the next period; or</li> <li>▪ started prior to the reference month or year, continued through the reference period and into the next period.</li> </ul>
<b>Duration of dispute</b>	<p>The <i>duration</i> of a dispute is the average number of working days lost per employee involved in the dispute. The duration of the dispute is calculated by dividing the number of working days lost in the dispute by the number of employees involved (both directly and indirectly).</p>
<b>Employees</b>	<p><i>Employees</i> refers to wage and salary earners only. Excluded are persons who are self-employed (e.g. building sub-contractors, owner-drivers of trucks) and employers.</p> <p><i>Employees directly involved</i> are those who actually participated in the dispute in order to enforce or resist a demand or to express a grievance.</p> <p><i>Employees indirectly involved</i> are those who ceased work at the establishment where the stoppages occurred, but who were not themselves parties to the dispute. Employees who ceased work at establishments other than those where the stoppages occurred are excluded (see paragraph 2 of the Explanatory Notes).</p>

## G L O S S A R Y

### Employees *continued*

*Employees newly involved* are those who are involved in the dispute for the first time during a dispute. Total employees comprises newly involved employees and employees involved for a second period in the same dispute.

*Total employees involved* for any period of time are obtained by adding together the number of employees involved in each dispute in the period. For any period of time the figures may include details of the same employees involved in more than one dispute. The longer the period of reference, the more chance there is of some double counting in the number of employees involved. Where there are varying numbers of employees involved during the progress of a dispute, the figures involved relate to the largest number of individual employees involved on any one day. Generally, the total number of employees involved for each year will equal the sum of the total number of employees involved in the first month of a year plus the number of employees newly involved in subsequent months. Differences between monthly and annual totals can occur due to the temporary cessation of stoppages which resume in subsequent months. Employees re-involved in this type of dispute are not classified as employees newly involved in stoppages in the second period in which the dispute occurs.

### Industry

*Industry* is classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 1993 (see paragraph 8 of the Explanatory Notes).

### Method of Settlement

Statistics for the *method of settlement* of industrial disputes relate to the method directly responsible for ending the stoppage of work as reported and not necessarily to the method (or methods) responsible for settling all matters in dispute. For these reasons, they do not reflect the relative importance of the work of various industrial tribunals operating under State and Federal legislation. The classification of method of settlement is as follows:

*Negotiation.* Private negotiation between the parties involved, or their representatives, without the intervention or assistance of authorities constituted under State or Federal industrial legislation.

*State legislation.* Intervention or assistance of an industrial authority or authorities created by or constituted under State conciliation and arbitration or wages board legislation, or reference to such authorities or compulsory or voluntary conference. Intervention, assistance or advice of State government officials or inspectors.

*Federal and joint Federal–State legislation.* Compulsory or voluntary conference or by intervention or assistance of, or reference to, the industrial relations commissions created by or constituted under the Industrial Relations Act, Coal Industry Acts, Stevedoring Industry Act; and other acts such as the Navigation Act and Public Service Arbitration Act. Intervention, assistance or advice of Federal government officials or inspectors.

## G L O S S A R Y

<b>Method of Settlement <i>continued</i></b>	<p><i>Resumption without negotiation.</i> This category may include some disputes which are settled subject to subsequent negotiation of a formal nature, such as industrial court hearings. Stop-work meetings are included, and this category may also include disputes settled by ‘resumption’ as stated, but about which no further information is available.</p> <p><i>Other methods.</i> Mediation; filling places of employees on strike or locked out; closing establishments permanently; dismissal or resignation of employees.</p>
<b>Other industries</b>	<p><i>Other industries</i> comprises those industries not included in the specified industry groupings. Other industries comprises Agriculture, forestry and fishing; Electricity, gas and water supply; Wholesale trade; Retail trade; Accommodation, cafes and restaurants; Finance and insurance; Property and business services; Government administration and defence; Cultural and recreational services; and Personal and other services.</p>
<b>Working days lost</b>	<p><i>Working days lost</i> refers to working days lost by employees directly and indirectly involved in the dispute and figures are generally as reported by parties to the dispute. For some disputes working days lost are estimated on the basis of the number of employees involved and the duration of the dispute.</p>
<b>Working days lost per thousand employees</b>	<p><i>Working days lost per thousand employees</i> are calculated for the 12 month period by dividing the total number of working days lost by the total number of employees and multiplying by 1,000. The number of employees is obtained from the ABS Labour Force Survey, and is averaged over the 12 month period. Refer to paragraph 6 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.</p>

## INFORMATION CONSULTANCY

### INTRODUCTION

A range of other more detailed monthly and annual data from this collection can be provided on request, and tailored to your individual requirements. The classifications, data items and ratios available are listed below.

### A CUSTOMISED APPROACH

We can supply you with your requested information in a variety of formats to best suit your needs:

- printed tables;
- spreadsheets in a range of formats compatible with your software package;
- via E-mail; and
- floppy disk

### DATA AVAILABLE

The following variables are available from this collection (the more variables included in any one tabulation, the more likely it is that confidentiality provisions associated with the data will be invoked and some data suppressed).

- Classifications:
  - State and Territory
  - Industry
  - Cause of dispute
  - Duration of dispute
  - Method of settlement
  - Distribution of employees involved
  - Distribution of working days lost
- Data items:
  - Number of disputes (commenced in the period, and total number of disputes)
  - Employees involved (newly involved and total number involved)
  - Working days lost
- Ratios:
  - Working days lost per thousand employees
  - Working days lost per dispute
  - Working days lost per employee involved
  - Employees per dispute

### MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Jim Birch on Melbourne 03 9615 7817 to enquire about the information from this collection or to order your special data requirements.

For information about the wider range of ABS data, see contact details on the back cover of this publication.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET** [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY** A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE** For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC** For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

## INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user-pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE** **1300 135 070**
- EMAIL** **[client.services@abs.gov.au](mailto:client.services@abs.gov.au)**
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